

**Operational Summary
Omaha District Tributary Reservoirs
May 9, 2001**

**Water Control and Water Quality Section
Hydrologic Engineering Branch**

Executive Summary

- New Activities This Week: Current releases at Jamestown Reservoir and Pipestem Reservoir are 1150 cfs and 100 cfs, respectively, for a combined total of 1250 cfs. This release rate is a deviation from the 1975 Field Working Agreement for the regulation of Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs. Approval for the deviation was granted from the Missouri River Region Water Management Division. Note that the Jamestown Reservoir pool level peaked on April 23 and Pipestem Reservoir should peak next week. See the attached James River Operations Summary for details.
- Pool Levels Above Flood Control Level: Pipestem Dam and Jamestown Dam (USBR) are the only projects with a significant amount of occupied flood control storage. At Pipestem Dam, 38% of the flood control storage is occupied and at Jamestown Dam, 25% of the flood control storage is occupied. In the Denver, Colorado area, Chatfield Dam, Bear Creek Dam and Cherry Creek Dam entered their respective flood control pools this past weekend. All reservoirs are currently evacuating that flood control storage.
- Storage or Release Concerns: The increase in releases from the projects will have little or no effect on downstream peak stages on the James River. The extended release of 1250 cfs will be controversial in some areas of South Dakota because of drainage problems along the James River. In the Denver area, the downstream river stages downstream of the projects have subsided.
- Flooding Concerns: Moderate to major flooding is forecasted along James River in North and South Dakota, primarily due to runoff from tributaries downstream from Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs.
- Drought Concerns: Water Control activities related to drought on tributary reservoirs are expected to be minor in the Omaha District.

Detailed Summary

- Jamestown/Pipestem: See attached James River Operations Summary and Bulletin.
- Tri-Lakes Area: Cherry Creek, Bear Creek and Chatfield Reservoirs are in their respective flood control pools.

- Papio/Salt Creek Projects: Reservoir levels are normal to below normal, with no significant flooding issues.
- Western South Dakota (Cold Brook, Cottonwood): No significant issues. Cold Brook low level gates were closed last fall and pool level is at base of flood control. This spring, pool level will be lowered 3 to 4 feet below normal to reduce probability of releases which would flood downstream residential development.
- Montana/Wyoming/Nebraska Bureau Projects: Forecasts for spring snowmelt are generally far below normal. Since projects are not in flood control zone, the Corps is not regulating releases and the Bureau is handling all issues relative to the releases.